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Probe into fund misuse for Gauhati AICC

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, Dec. 7—The Assam Government has decided to set up a commission to inquire into the allegations of use of Government machinery and diversion of public and company funds for the "political purpose" of the Jawaharnagar AICC session in 1976.

Chief Minister Golap Borbora told the State Assembly yesterday that this was being done under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952.

Mr Borbora said a retired judge of the Delhi High Court, Mr Justice Jagjit Singh, will head the commission with headquarters at Gauhati.

The commission's terms of reference are extensive and had been documented in a "charge-sheet" submitted to Prime Minister Morarji Desai by 20 Janata legislators of the dissolved State Assembly in June, 1977.

The commission will also inquire into the specific instances of incurring expenditure from the contingency fund for the AICC session during October and November, 1977 under different heads and of getting the advances sanctioned by supplementary budget by "misleading statements regarding the purpose of the expenditure".

The commission will inquire into the circumstances under which two guest houses and an adjoining helipad were constructed near the Jawaharnagar-Khanapar area and the "dominant motive" behind the construction.

The terms of reference also include specific allegations regarding use of the departments of transport, cultural affairs and education in connection with the processions for escorting the then Congress president, Mr Dey Kant Borooah, and the Youth Congress leader, Mr Sanjay Gandhi from Borjhar to Jawaharnagar via Gauhati city.

Mr Borbora told the House that the commission may make interim reports to the State Government. The date for submission of the final report has not been specified.

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Our Staff Correspondent

GAUHATI, Dec 15—The executive of the Assam Youth Congress meeting here today on the eve of a political conference of the Congress unanimously supported the resolution of 21 November to maintain independence from the BJP and the Congress.

Reiterating its firm determination to maintain the separate identity of the Congress, the executive decided to oppose any move for surrendering the Congress to umbrella and authoritarian forces.

A spokesman of the APYC said their representative would fight on this line at the Congress political conference.